

**RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
EXPEDITED PROCEDURE REQUESTED
EXAMINING GROUP 2132**

PATENT
Customer No. 22,852
Application No.: 09/448,470
November 24, 1999
Attorney Docket No. 4329.2191-00

REMARKS

By the present Amendment, Applicants propose canceling claims 7, 11, and 14, without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter. Upon entry of this Amendment, claims 9, 10, 12, 13, 15, and 16 remain pending.

In the outstanding Final Office Action dated March 30, 2004, the Examiner rejected claims 7, 11, and 14 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as anticipated by U.S. Patent 5,937,066 to *Gennaro et al.* The Examiner also indicated that claims 9, 10, 12, 13, 15, and 16 were allowed. Applicants appreciate the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter.

Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner's rejection under § 102(e). However, to advance the prosecution of this application, Applicant proposes canceling claims rejected claims 7, 11, and 14, without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter.

Applicants respectfully request that this Amendment under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 be entered by the Examiner, placing pending claims 9, 10, 12, 13, 15, and 16 in condition for allowance . Therefore, this Amendment should allow for immediate action by the Examiner.

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Finally, Applicants submit that the entry of the Amendment would place the application in better form for appeal, should the Examiner dispute the patentability of the pending claims.

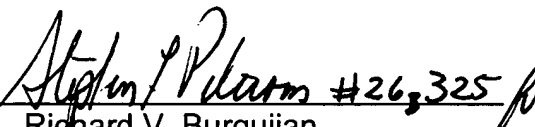
In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicants submit that this claimed invention is neither anticipated nor rendered obvious in view of the prior art references cited against this application. Applicants therefore request the entry of this Amendment, the Examiner's reconsideration and reexamination of the application, and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: August 2, 2004

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